

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:06 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2005.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Gonzalez, Haddon, Lew, and Warner.

Absent: Chairperson White and Vice-Chairperson Hoffman.

Also Present: Public Works Director Beste,  
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and  
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

Due to the absences of both Chairperson White and Vice-Chairperson Hoffman, Commissioner Warner was selected to lead the meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Deemer moved to grant excused absences to Commissioner Hoffman and Chairperson White for the November 17, 2005 Water Commission meeting and, hearing no objection, Acting Chairperson Warner so ordered.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Haddon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Hoffman and Chairperson White).

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 20, 2005**

Referring to the October 20, 2005 Water Commission meeting minutes, Commissioner Gonzalez received clarification that there would be a presentation on the City's emergency planning program at the Commission's December meeting and that discussions were underway with California Water Service Company for them to report on their emergency preparedness plan at a future Commission meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez moved for the approval of the October 20, 2005 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Hoffman and Chairperson White).

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7A. PRESENTATION REGARDING URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and requested that the Commission provide input and conceptual approval of the draft 2005 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). He noted that, following Commission approval, the UWMP would go to City Council on December 13, 2005 for formal adoption as a public hearing matter.

Senior Project Manager Landstedt, Psomas Consultants, provided an overview of the purpose and each of the eight sections of the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). She noted that there was a draft front and back cover available for Commissioners to review.

She reported that the UWMP was prepared in compliance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act (1983) and that it was due every five years by December 31 to the Department of Water Resources. She noted that the document could be amended or updated at any time in the five-year period, or that changes could be held until the next UWMP was prepared. She stated that the plan focuses on water sources, quality, supply, use, and reliability, noting that this plan addresses 25 years rather than the 20 years' planning period required by law.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, MWD Director Wright stated that MWD was reliable for 25 years and Public Works Director advised that Torrance Municipal Water District (TMWD) was mirroring what MWD has in their UWMP. Ms. Landstedt added that MWD independently does their own supply and demand projections using their MWD main model that is based on land use and other factors.

She reported that the required components of the UWMP are: water service area and facilities, sources and supplies, water quality, reliability planning, water use provisions, demand management measures, shortage contingency planning, and water recycling.

Referring to the sources and supplies component in Section 2, she reported that the City uses groundwater, desalted water, imported water, and recycled water. She stated that the groundwater comes from the West Coast Groundwater Basin, with adjudicated water rights of 5,640 acre feet per year. She explained that in 2004-05 the City pumped only 3% of its water supply but that the City planned to develop the North Torrance wells which would provide full use of water rights by 2015. She reported that desalted water comes from the Water Replenishment District's (WRD) Goldsworthy Groundwater Desalter Project and represents 8% of TMWD's water supply. She stated

that currently 68% of TMWD's water supply comes from five connections with MWD and that by 2015 imported water is projected to be 57% of the supply. Recycled water comes from the West Basin Water Recycling Plant and is about 20% of supply due to large refinery use.

She reported that Section 3, Water Quality of Existing Sources, addresses each of the sources and what is being done by the agencies that are responsible for those supplies. She stated that the City's water supply meets or exceeds all State and Federal standards as demonstrated in the Annual Consumer Confidence Report, noting that MWD treats the imported water supply and monitors water quality concerns. She discussed water quality programs that include the CALFED Program and Source Water Protection. She provided information about how groundwater is monitored, groundwater quality concerns, and water quality programs, noting that Torrance did not anticipate losing any water supply due to water quality.

MWD Director Wright discussed salinity in the Colorado River water, organic materials in Northern California water, and uranium concerns, noting that MWD is converting its plants to ozone to provide more effective treatment.

Senior Project Manager Landstedt described Water Reliability Planning (Section 4) as a measure of expected success in managing water shortages in varying situations, such as dry years and multiple dry years under different conditions. She stated that consultants looked at MWD projections and what the City has experienced over time and determined what would occur in those situations. She stated that MWD has revised its UWMP several times to change the reliability and sources percentages and the City has refined its own UWMP based on that data, noting that MWD chose 1977 as a single dry year.

MWD Wright commented that the Colorado River was extremely reliable even under drought conditions because it has 60 million acre feet of storage.

Senior Project Manager Landsteadt provided information about MWD's Integrated Water Resources Plan (1996) and "A Blueprint for Water Reliability" (2003), noting that MWD expects 100% reliability under all conditions up to the year 2030. She described WRD's programs for reliability that include the Recycled Water, Groundwater Resources Planning, Groundwater Quality, and Seawater Barrier Improvement programs. She noted the demand and supply comparison tables in Section 4 for normal year, single dry year, and multiple dry year scenarios. She stated that projects planned by TMWD include well and reservoir rehabilitation, North Torrance wells, and desalter expansion. She briefly described planned water supply strategies by MWD that include conservation and seawater desalination as well as WRD programs that include conjunctive use, the Highway 105 dewatering project, and a Nitrogen Gas Pilot Study.

In response to Commissioner Lew's inquiry, she described WRD's Highway 105 dewatering project mentioned on page 4-35 of the UWMP.

She provided a summary of Section 5, Water Use Provisions, in which water use is presented by sector to demonstrate land use impacts on consumption. She noted that the City's water use is 40% residential and 24% recycled, with an acceptable 4.3% unaccounted-for system loss. She stated that service connections would increase only 6% through 2030. Section 6 focuses on Demand Management Measures also known as

Best Management Practices. She stated that in 1993 the City committed to implementing the 14 demand management measures for urban water conservation. She briefly described some of the collaborative programs and policies with MWD and West Basin Municipal Water District. She noted that the City submits activity reports every two years to the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

Responding to Commissioner Gonzalez's inquiry, she stated that the California Urban Water Conservation Council, while it did not impose penalties, was looking for a high percentage of compliance because it gives them data to understand what is going on in the State. She noted that Torrance receives full credit for anything that MWD or West Basin Municipal Water District does in the service area.

She summarized the 1991 Water Shortage Contingency Plan, a five phases of action plan to reduce demand if a shortage is declared. She stated that the City would follow and respond to MWD's Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan of 1999. She advised that the three-year minimum supply under worst-case supply projections shows 100% to 107% supply.

Commissioner Deemer commented that the State of New Mexico has been under a unified water management plan for 20 years.

Senior Project Manager Landsteadt briefly described the catastrophic supply interruption plan when the City's Emergency Management Plan would be enacted. She stated that the City would work cooperatively with MWD through their MARS radio system. She noted that the UWMP addresses methods to evaluate effectiveness of water use reduction.

In response to MWD Director Wright's inquiry, Public Works Director Beste clarified that Torrance has one satellite phone and plans to purchase more for the EOC.

Senior Project Manager Landsteadt provided an overview of Water Recycling in Section 8 of the UWMP. She stated that in 2005 the City used about 7,000 acre feet, with a 3% increase anticipated by 2015. She noted that there was not a substantial increase because the City uses so much recycled water. She added that the UWMP also mentions the 2005 West Basin Water Recycling Master Plan Update and the West Basin Water Reuse Program.

The conclusion of the UWMP states that planning efforts in coordination with MWD and other regional agencies ensure reliability of a sufficient supply of water to meet the needs of TMWD customers during normal, dry, or multiple dry years over the 25-year planning horizon, and that water reliability analysis shows a surplus of water under all hydrologic conditions.

She welcomed comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gonzalez noted an inconsistency in language in Section 4 regarding desalter expansion.

Responding to Commissioner Gonzalez's inquiry regarding Section 4-20, footnote (4), Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that there was a slight net

growth. In response to her inquiry regarding Well #6 mentioned in Section 427, he stated that the expected completion date was in three to four months.

Commissioner Deemer inquired about a location for the planned new wells referred to in Section 427. Public Works Director Beste responded that there are preferred sites in North Torrance but they are still under review. He noted that there would be at least one storage reservoir to handle all the production facilities.

MWD Director Wright briefly discussed MWD's plans to promote conservation reclamation programs through schools at the Center for Water Education in the City of Hemet, California.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiries, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained how residential connections are counted, how reverse osmosis would destroy residual pharmaceuticals before injection, and discussed plans to rehabilitate Well #6. When Commissioner Deemer noted that there was a discrepancy in population data for 2005 in Table 1.3-2, staff stated that they would review the numbers.

In response to Commissioner Haddon's inquiry, Public Works Director Beste advised that Well #7 would be a good candidate for an injection well.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich encouraged Commissioners to attend the December 13, 2005 City Council meeting. He stated that staff was prepared to give a presentation under Administrative Matters.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez moved to approve the 2005 Urban Water Management Plan as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deemer and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Chairperson White and Commissioner Hoffman).

## **8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that at the West Basin Association meeting in early November 2005 the main topic of discussion was Metropolitan Water District's temporary surplus water program that is encouraging member agencies to store surplus water in a conjunctive use program. He stated that they hoped to resolve outstanding institutional issues, such as governance, at least temporarily under WRD's interim rules. He noted that West Basin has agreed to host a meeting on conjunctive use in early January 2006. He reported that in addition WRD reported on their Program Review Committee and their West Coast Basin Operating Study that will be completed in two or three months.

Commissioner Haddon added that the conjunctive use issue was a jurisdictional problem and that the language needs to be sorted out.

Public Works Director Beste noted that WRD would charge an assessment when water is taken out.

In response to Commissioner Lew's inquiry, MWD Director Wright stated that the surplus water was being held in Lake Oroville.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**9A. DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Commissioner Deemer noted that a page with details about I-89 was missing in the Capital Improvement Program Update. Public Works Director Beste stated that the program was still in design, with concerns about paving and construction costs.

**9B. MWD DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

MWD Director Wright reported that MWD's Urban Water Management Plan was adopted last week. He stated that MWD would be able to meet the demand for the next twenty years, and that planned steps were demonstrated in the case of a 50% reduction in supply or catastrophe. He stated that in an attempt to encourage local agencies to develop back up supply, MWD was considering a treated water capacity charge because they do not want anyone peaking off of their system.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion regarding evaporation in Diamond Valley Lake.

**10. ORALS**

**10A.** Acting Chairperson Warner inquired about a previously discussed tour of City water facilities, the desalter, and West Basin's recycling plant. It was determined to break the tour up and go on tours on two Saturday mornings.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:59 p.m., Commissioner Haddon moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Acting Chairperson Warner so ordered.

Approved as Submitted December 15, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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